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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Second session
22 February-4 March 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination.

4. Review and recasting of the recommendations made by the Committee at its first session.

5. Review of progress on water-related issues:

   (a) Review of progress, constraints and limitations in the implementation of water-related issues (including inputs from specialized agencies and regional commissions);

   (b) Consideration of new instruments for global action.

6. Legislative and institutional aspects of water resources management.

7. Economic and social development needs in the mineral sector:

   (a) Flow of financial resources, development and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries and economies in transition;

   (b) Regional mineral resource assessment programmes;

(c) Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition.

8. Effects of environmental protection and conservation policies on the mineral sector (including consideration of available studies by concerned entities of the United Nations system on the impact on the environment of exploration and mining, and review of state-of-the-art technologies dealing with processing of mining wastes and tailings).

9. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 26 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the Committee, as a subsidiary body of the Council, shall elect its officers. As in the previous session, the Committee may wish to elect five officers, namely, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The provisional agenda and documentation for the second session of the Committee were approved by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1993/302.

The proposed organizational arrangements for the work of the Committee, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1992/62, are set out below.

In addition to the items concerning the election of officers and the adoption of the agenda (items 1 and 2), issues related to activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination (item 3) and review and recasting of the recommendations made by the Committee at its first session (item 4) would be dealt with in plenary meeting as they are relevant to both mineral and water resources. Following the discussion of these items, the Committee would break up into two working groups: the Working Group on Water Resources (to discuss items 5 and 6) and the Working Group on Mineral Resources (to discuss items 7 and 8). Items 9 and 10 would be considered in plenary meeting.

By its decision 1993/302, the Economic and Social Council approved the documentation to be prepared by the Secretariat under various agenda items, and the reports before the Committee respond to its request.

By the same decision, the Economic and Social Council requested the Committee to review at its second session, as a matter of priority, its recommendations relating to water, with a view to making a contribution to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session, in 1994.

3. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and inter-agency coordination in the field of water resources (including disaster prevention and mitigation in the field of water resources; particular emphasis to be given to issues of public participation and the role of women in the development and management of water resources)

Report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the mining sector (with particular emphasis on projects aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries and economies in transition, and including disaster prevention and mitigation in the field of mineral resources)

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to the Governing Council of UNDP on the activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

Report of the Secretary-General on existing international principles, rules and regulations governing the relationship between the owner of data collected through remote-sensing techniques and the country to which such data are related, as well as on the present state of activities within the United Nations system (taking into account recent advances in remote sensing, geophysics, data processing and other relevant techniques).

4. Review and recasting of the recommendations made by the Committee at its first session

By its decision 1993/302, the Economic and Social Council requested the Committee, at its second session, to review and recast the recommendations it made at its first session by following, with the assistance of the Secretariat, a standard pattern of reporting when submitting its recommendations to the Council.

5. Review of progress on water-related issues:

(a) Review of progress, constraints and limitations in the implementation of water-related issues (including inputs from specialized agencies and regional commissions);

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on action taken by Governments towards meeting the objectives of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and Agenda 21 on water-related issues

(b) Consideration of new instruments for global action.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on activities related to instruments for global action in other environmental areas and on the substantive content of such instruments

6. Legislative and institutional aspects of water resources management

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on institutional and legal issues related to integrated water resources management

7. Economic and social development needs in the mineral sector:

(a) Flow of financial resources, development and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries and economies in transition;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and the development and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources sector of developing countries and economies in transition

(b) Regional mineral resource assessment programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing a review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes and resource needs

(c) Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition (including social and environmental impacts related to legislation and regulations; and mechanized operations, with special attention to the role and contribution of women)

8. Effects of environmental protection and conservation policies on the mineral sector (including consideration of available studies by concerned entities of the United Nations system on the impact on the environment of exploration and mining, and review of state-of-the-art technologies dealing with processing of mining wastes and tailings)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the effects of changing environmental legislation and regulations applicable to the mining industry on a global basis

9. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee

In view of the revised terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources and in the light of the assumption that the Committee may wish to adopt innovative approaches, the provisional agenda will not be prepared in advance of the session. It will be drafted on the basis of the Committee's deliberations and recommendations.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session

The Committee will adopt its report to the Economic and Social Council.